



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

September 21, 2006

For immediate release

- 1. Public asked to attend meeting on improving McCloud Run, Iowa's only urban trout stream**
- 2. Recognizing leadership and innovation in natural resources**
- 3. DNR to begin statewide mapping using LiDAR**

PUBLIC ASKED TO ATTEND MEETING ON IMPROVING MCLOUD RUN, IOWA'S ONLY URBAN TROUT STREAM

CEDAR RAPIDS – The DNR will hold a public meeting to gather Iowans' input prior to drafting an improvement plan for Iowa's only urban trout stream, McCloud Run.

The DNR will hold the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Cedar Rapids Department of Water, 1111 Shaver Road NE. All interested residents and parties may attend.

McCloud Run is a spring-fed stream located in the heart of Cedar Rapids, with water conditions cold enough to support a trout population year-round. However, McCloud Run was placed on the state's impaired waters list after a fish kill in August 2001. Heat shock caused the fish kill when a rapid rise in water temperature stressed the trout. The rise in temperature came from rain water that fell on hot roofs, parking lots and paved areas, and then ran into the stream.

"McCloud Run is a unique resource for the people of Cedar Rapids, and we need their help to make it a healthier stream," said Joe Herring, with the DNR's Watershed Improvement section. "As we develop a water quality plan for McCloud Run, it's very important that we have the help of Cedar Rapids residents, who know and use the stream."

The DNR is seeking public input to provide opinions, comments and assistance in determining the causes of and solutions to the problem. These comments will be used to

develop a water quality plan, also known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), for heat pollution in McCloud Run. Citizen involvement is critical to achieving water quality goals at McCloud Run and across the state.

MEDIA CONTACT: Joe Herring, DNR, at (515) 281-8143.

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RECOGNIZING LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION IN NATURAL RESOURCES

DES MOINES — Iowa businesses, organizations and individuals are invited to apply for the 2006 Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards. This premier environmental awards program, sponsored by Governor Vilsack and the State of Iowa, recognizes leadership and innovation in the protection of Iowa's water, land and air.

"Our natural resources are one of our state's greatest treasures," said Jeffrey Vonk, director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "We are honored to recognize those Iowans who work to protect and enhance the environment."

Awards will be given for overall environmental excellence and special recognition in water quality, waste management, energy efficiency/renewable energy, air quality and habitat restoration/development.

Categories for the awards include:

- ◆ Agriculture (operation, farm or other ag-related business or organization)
- ◆ Community/Local Government
- ◆ Small Business or Industry (up to 200 employees)
- ◆ Large Business or Industry (more than 200 employees)
- ◆ Institution/Public Sector Facility (hospital, college, school, etc.)
- ◆ Service/Civic/Nonprofit Organization (Kiwanis, Lions Club, Pheasants Forever, etc.)

The awards are sponsored by the Governor's Office, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

The application deadline is November 13, 2006. To obtain an application, visit www.iowadnr.com/other/ee/index.html, or contact: Jill Cornell with the Iowa DNR at (515) 281-0879 or by e-mail: Jill.Cornell@dnr.state.ia.us.

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DNR TO BEGIN STATEWIDE MAPPING USING LIDAR

DES MOINES — The DNR announced today a partnership that will allow the DNR to conduct statewide mapping using state-of-the art LiDAR.

LiDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is a new technology that creates an interactive topographic map with elevation data accurate within eight inches. Current data has an accuracy of within five feet. LiDAR is a process of scanning the earth with lasers from an aircraft to obtain accurate elevations. It is similar to sonar in that it measures distance by the time it takes for the laser to reach the ground and bounce back to the aircraft.

Funding from the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will allow the DNR to contract with the U.S. Geological Survey to gather data.

“LiDAR is an incredibly valuable tool for so many Iowans, from farmers to engineers,” said Chris Ensminger, coordinator of the DNR’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) section. “We wouldn’t be able to make this information available without the help of our partners.”

As a supplement to field surveys, LiDAR can be used to plan for road construction, other construction sites and conservation farming practices. It can also be used to evaluate alternative infrastructure options, for education and research purposes, and in engineering.

Depending on weather, the DNR plans to collect the statewide data in three seasons: fall 2006, and spring and fall 2007. Initial data would be available for viewing from the DNR’s interactive mapping Web site approximately two to three months after collection.

This new data will join a number of watersheds (the area that drains into a stream or lake) that have already been mapped using LiDAR. This information has helped construction planning and estimates in the Lake Darling, Great Lakes, Bear Creek and Lake Rathbun watersheds. LiDAR maps of these watersheds can be viewed for no cost through the DNR’s interactive mapping site at www.iowadnr.gov.

The DNR is still seeking funding for additional elements to accompany LiDAR, including updated aerial photography.

MEDIA CONTACT: Chris Ensminger at (515) 281-4216.